CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for reducing latency while handling network accounting records

2   using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are

4   received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

5   (b)   generating a command in response to the receipt of the records by the

6   aggregator;

7   (c)   wherein services are rendered in response to the command with minimal

8   latency caused by the aggregator.

1   2.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the command includes a start

2   command that is generated immediately before the aggregator generates a

3   memory state in response to the receipt of records.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the command includes a start

2   command that is generated immediately before other operations are

3   performed by the aggregator in response to the receipt of the records.

1   4.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the command includes a start

2   command that is sent immediately to a receiving device or module in a data

3   collection system of which the aggregator is a component.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the start command is sent over a

2   network utilizing at least one of UDP/IP, TCP/IP, and IPX protocol.

XACTP008

1   6.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the records are received over a

2   network utilizing at least one of UDP/IP, TCP/IP, and IPX protocol.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the records are received from

2   information sources.

1   8.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising determining

2   whether any of the records is a signal, wherein the aggregation is evaluated in

3   immediate response to the receipt of the signal to further minimize latency.

1   9.   A computer program product for reducing latency while handling network

2   accounting records using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   computer code for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein

4   the records are received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the

5   records; and

6   (b)   computer code for generating a command in response to the receipt of the

7   records before work is done by the aggregator;

8   (c)   wherein services are rendered in response to the command with minimal

9   latency caused by the aggregator.

1   10.   A system for reducing latency while handling network accounting records

2   using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   logic for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records

4   are received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

5   (b)   logic for generating a command in response to the receipt of the records

6   before work is done by the aggregator;

7   (c)   wherein services are rendered in response to the command with minimal

8   latency caused by the aggregator.

1   11.   A method for reducing latency while handling network accounting records

2   using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are

4   received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

5   (b)   sending a command to a receiving device or module in a data collection

6   system of which the aggregator is a component in response to the receipt of

7   the records by the aggregator;

8   (c)   wherein services are rendered in response to the command with minimal

9   latency caused by the aggregator.

1   12.   A method for reducing latency while handling network accounting records

2   using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are

4   received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

5   (b)   evaluating the records in immediate response to the receipt of the records to

6   determine whether an update or stop command is necessary; and

7   (c)   wherein minimal latency is caused by the aggregator.

1   13.   The method as recited in claim 12, and further comprising generating the

2   update or stop command immediately in response to the receipt of the

3   records if the update or stop command is necessary.

1   14.   The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the command is sent immediately

2   to a receiving device or module in a data collection system of which the

3   aggregator is a component.

1   15.   The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the command is sent over a

2   network utilizing at least one of UDP/IP, TCP/IP, and IPX protocol.

1   16.   The method as recited in claim 12, and further comprising determining

2   whether any of the records is a signal, wherein the aggregation is evaluated in

3   immediate response to the receipt of the signal.

1   17.   The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the evaluation of the records
2   includes determining whether a threshold is met.

1   18.   The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the threshold is user-configured.

1   19.   The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the aggregation is updated by
2   marking one of the records that was last sent if an update threshold is met.

1   20.   The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the aggregation is stopped by
2   resetting a memory state associated with the records if a stop threshold is
3   met.

1   21.   The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the aggregation is evaluated
2   periodically in addition to being updated in immediate response to the receipt
3   of the signal.

1   22.   A computer program product for reducing latency while handling network
2   accounting records using an aggregator, comprising:
3   (a)   computer code for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein
4   the records are received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the
5   records; and
6   (b)   computer code for evaluating the records in immediate response to the
7   receipt of the records to determine whether an update or stop command is
8   necessary;
9   (c)   wherein minimal latency is caused by the aggregator.

1   23.   A system for reducing latency while handling network accounting records
2   using an aggregator, comprising:
3   (a)   logic for receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records
4   are received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

XACTP008

5   (b)   logic for evaluating the records in immediate response to the receipt of the

6   records to determine whether an update or stop command is necessary;

7   (c)   wherein minimal latency is caused by the aggregator.

1   24.   A method for reducing latency while handling network accounting records

2   using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are

4   received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

5   (b)   generating an update or stop command immediately in response to the receipt

6   of the records if the update or stop command is necessary;

7   (c)   wherein minimal latency is caused by the aggregator.

1   25.   A method for reducing latency while handling network accounting records

2   using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are

4   received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

5   (b)   sending an update or stop command to a receiving device or module in a data

6   collection system of which the aggregator is a component in immediate

7   response to the receipt of the records by the aggregator;

8   (c)   wherein minimal latency is caused by the aggregator.

1   26.   A method for reducing latency while handling network accounting records

2   using an aggregator, comprising:

3   (a)   receiving records indicative of network events, wherein the records are

4   received in an aggregator for the purpose of aggregating the records; and

5   (b)   generating a command in response to the receipt of the records by the

6   aggregator;

7   (c)   wherein services are rendered in response to the command within a

8   predetermined amount of time.

XACTP008